

2014/2015
TRAPPING INFORMATION
FINAL (9/16/14)

SENDING IN A FUR CATCH REPORT IS REQUIRED EVEN IF YOU DO NOT TRAP. FAILURE TO ACCURATELY COMPLETE AND RETURN THE REPORT BY THE DEADLINE SHALL BE SUFFICIENT CAUSE FOR REFUSAL OF FUTURE PERMITS.

<u>Minnesota</u>	<u>Opening Time</u>	<u>Refuge Trapping Season *</u>
Mink and Muskrat	9:00 am	Nov. 1 – Feb. 28
Raccoon	9:00 am	Nov. 1 – Mar. 15
Fox (Red or Gray)	9:00 am	Nov. 1 – Mar. 15
Beaver	9:00 am	Nov. 1 – Mar. 15
Otter	9:00 am	Nov. 1 – Jan. 4

Wisconsin – Mississippi Zone

Muskrat	9:00 am	Nov. 10 – Mar. 8
Mink	9:00 am	Nov. 10 – Mar. 8
Raccoon	9:00 am	Nov. 10 – Feb. 15
Fox (Red or Gray)	9:00 am	Nov. 10 – Feb. 15
Beaver (Zone D)	9:00 am	Dec. 8 – Mar. 15
Otter	9:00 am	Nov. 10 – Mar. 15

Wisconsin – Southern Zone

Muskrat	9:00 am	Oct. 25 – Mar. 8
Mink	9:00 am	Oct. 25 – Mar. 8
Raccoon	9:00 am	Oct. 25 – Feb. 15
Fox (Red or Gray)	9:00 am	Oct. 25 – Feb. 15
Beaver (Zone C)	9:00 am	Nov. 1 – Mar. 15
Otter	9:00 am	Nov. 1 – Mar. 15

* The opening time for trapping in Closed Areas and No Hunting Zones is 9:00 a.m on the day after the close of the State duck hunting season.

Minnesota duck hunting season (South Zone) closes on December 6, 2014.

Wisconsin duck hunting season (South and Mississippi Zones) closes on December 7, 2014.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- ▶ Pool maps showing Federal Refuge lands where trap tags are required are available at the District office or on the Service website http://www.fws.gov/refuge/upper_mississippi_river/
- ▶ State boundaries do not always follow the main navigation channel. Most notably:
 - In Pool 4, the series of islands located between Lock and Dam 4 and the Alma Marina (river miles 753 to 754) are in Wisconsin.
 - In Pool 5A, the large island between Pap Slough and the main navigation channel from river mile 730.7 to 731.7 is in Wisconsin.
 - In Pool 6, Latsch Island across from the City of Winona from river mile 725.2 to 726.3 is in Minnesota.
- ▶ No trapping before, 9:00 a.m. on, the opening day of the Refuge muskrat trapping season.
- ▶ No trapping on the Refuge after **March 15**.
- ▶ Snares (as well as cable-restraints) and multiple-catch (colony) traps are not permitted on the Refuge.

- ▶ After opening day, trapping hours are ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset unless more restrictive hours are set by the State.
- ▶ The current Refuge tag must be attached to the trap whenever it is placed on the Refuge, in addition to the State tagging requirements.
- ▶ Trapper must carry Refuge permit and State trapping license while trapping on the Refuge.
- ▶ Refuge areas posted, “Area Closed” and/or “No Hunting Zone” are not open to trapping until 9:00 a.m. the day after the close of the duck hunting season, except as otherwise noted on the trapping permit.
- ▶ Staking trap sites or placing trapping equipment in more than one location on the Refuge before 9:00 a.m. on opening day of any Refuge trapping season is prohibited.
- ▶ Placing stakes without a trap attached is prohibited.
- ▶ Traps may not be set closer than 3’ from the waterline of a muskrat house.
- ▶ Traps may not be set closer than 6’ of where the beaver lodge or dam meets the water. The 6 foot setback restriction does not apply to bank dens that do not have an associated lodge structure/cache. Dog-proof traps and #110 sized body-grip traps are allowed on beaver dams or lodges. State regulations that are more restrictive apply.
- ▶ **The restrictions for body-gripping traps in Minnesota are described in detail on page 48 of the 2014 MN Hunting and Trapping Regulations Handbook.**
- ▶ Traps may not be set closer than 30’ from an otter den.
- ▶ **No carcasses or animal parts may be disposed of on the Refuge.**
- ▶ Destroying or damaging any animal house, den, lodge, or dam is prohibited.
- ▶ You may not tend another person’s traps or trap line on the Refuge unless specifically authorized by the Refuge Manager. Any trap/set which is tended by multiple persons must display a current tag assigned to each permittee checking the trap.
- ▶ A violation of any state or federal trapping regulation may result in immediate revocation of Refuge trapping permit and/or refusal of future Refuge permits.
- ▶ Each trap must be inspected at least once every calendar day except for beaver which must be tended every two calendar days.
- ▶ **Otter trapping is allowed in MN, IA, WI and IL. Only 1 otter may be harvested per trapper on the Refuge. All other State otter seasons and licensing apply.**
- ▶ **Site validation coupons are required for river otter taken in Minnesota. Please see page 51 of the 2013 MN Hunting and Trapping Regulations Handbook for more details.**
- ▶ If furbearers are caught out of season or over the Refuge bag limit (1 otter), a Refuge Wildlife Officer must be notified prior to the removal of the furbearer or tampering with the set.
- ▶ Failure to return the fur catch report by April 15 shall result in the loss of trapping privileges for 1 year.
- ▶ Refuge Contact Numbers

Winona District Office: (507) 454-7351

Winona District Federal Wildlife Officer Rob Hirschboeck: cell (608) 769-7174, office (507) 494-6235